THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indo-UK Extradition Treaty was ratified on 15 November 1993 and has become effective from that date.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

U.S. to lead block of Asia-Pacific Nations

@670. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United States to lead a block of 16 Asia Pacific Nations which includes China, South Korea and Taiwan to a new trading block raising the spectre of isolation for India and other South Asian countries in the emerging economic globalisaton;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn into a news report appearing in the Times of India dated 22-11.93 in this connection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government to the issues being raised therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), was establisehd as a loose consultative forum of 12 countries at a Ministerial meeting in Canberra, in 1989. APEC now comprises of 17 countries, namely : Australia, Brunei, Darussalam, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Tipel, Thailand and United States. Chile is to be admitted in 1994, after which APEC has decided on a 3-year moratorium on expansion, while it concentrates on consolidation and improving its effectiveness.

APEC holds annual ministerial meetings and the country which hosts the subsequent meeting is responsible for steering APC activities for the period between the Ministerial meetings. United States had this responsibility for the year preceding the Seattle meeting. The next Ministerial meeting will be in Indonesia.

The Seattle meeting of APEC agreed on a programme of cooperative activities for liberalisation and facilitation of global and regional trade. APEC has rejected the idea of forming a closed "Trading Bloc" and emphasised its commitment to global free trade as also its own open and outward looking orientation based on the concept of "Open Regionalism". It extended strong support for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. APEC has also established procedures to enable non-members from the Asia Pacific region to participate in its work programmes.

With the size and liberalisation of the Indian economy, and its substantial trade and economic linkages with other Asia Pacific countries, India looks forward to an expanding working relationship with APEC. India has expressed its interest in eventual membership of APEC. This would be taken up with APEC members at the appropriate time.

Extradiction of Amanullah

671. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status position of the extradiction proceedings against the Pakistan occupied Kashmir terrorist leader Mr. Amanullah who was arrested in Belgium Capital Brussels recently;

(b) what are the criminal anti-India anticidents of Mr. Amanullah;

@Previously Unstarred Question 340 Transferred from 6-12-93.

(c) whether it is a fact that Amanullah had gone to Brussels to attend Socialists sponsored conference to discuss aileged "Suppression" of human right in Kashmir;

(d) whether it is a fact that Indian socialists also attended this anti-India Brussels Conference and attacked Government of India for allegedly making Kashmir a bleeding Colony of India;

(e) who were these Indian Socialists and delegates who freely Indulged in anti-India commentary in the name of defending human rights; and

(f) what was the substance and text of Indian Socialists who made anti-India speeches at Brussels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) A formal request for the extradition of Amanullah Khan from Belgium has been made to the Government of Belgium on 29 October 1993. The matter is to be considered further by the competent Belgian Court of Appeal.

(b) The extradition request is based on warrants for the arrest of Amanullah Khan issued in April 1990 by the concerned judicial authorities in J&K on charges of murder and criminal conspiracy.

(c) Amanullah Khan had reportedly gone to Brussels to attend a so-called Round Table discussion on Kashmir organised by the Socialist Group in the European Parliament. The stated aims of the Round Table were to obtain understanding of the origin and nature of the Kashmir issue and to consider scope for progress towards a peaceful solution.

(d) to (f) Indian participants in the Round Table reportedly included Shri George Fernandes, M.P; Shri M. S. Bahl; Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President, J&K National Conference; Prof. Bhima Singh, President, Jammu Kashmir Panthers' Party; Dr. K. S. Pandita, Secretary, Friends of Kashmir and Shri Ravi Nair, Director of the South Asia Documentation Centre, New Delhi. The Round Table was open to participants only and details of the discussions and speeches made have not been made public.

Expenditure incurred on foreign tours by Central Ministers

672. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Central Ministers who undertook foreign tours after the formation of the present Government stating the countries visited, the purpose of their visit and the expenditure incurred in terms of foreign exchange in each case; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the expenditure incurred on these tours was not in line with the austerity measures adopted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Foreign tours are undertaken by the Ministers due to requirements of Government work.

Pak threat of using nuclear device against India

673. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the then Pakistan's Prime Minister regarding its close link between Kashmir and Pakistan's nuclear capability and further emphasising that if necessary, Islamabad would not hesitate to use its nuclear option to take Kashmir away from India, as reported in the Observer and Times of India of October 19, 1993;